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Members of the Steens Mountain Advisory Committee:

I was asked to come today to make a presentation to you regarding the Social and Economic impacts of the Steens Mountain Wilderness Act.

This is the reason why the City of Burns has been involved in providing you feedback and comments over the past several months. Our local economy is heavily reliant on multiple use of our natural resources.

The City of Burns is witness to a move to restrict the use of public lands and/or eliminate it altogether. We see this effort as coming from the urban centers of America, who choose to continually degrade their own back yard in the name of progress, and use their numbers and dollars to put Harney County and rural America in a glass jar. This is done without regard to the economic and social impacts of the people in this county.

This attack stretches the limited resources the people of this county have. Federal workers who should be managing the land are forced to spend their time behind a desk pouring over reams of paper. Business men and women are forced to spend their spare time battling for their interests against forces that are determined to put them out of business.

The City of Burns places itself along side the people of Harney County who work and play on these public lands in supporting multiple use, access, and conservation of our public lands. We believe conservation issues can be addressed in a way that preserves the multiple use of these lands.

Recreation

The City of Burns is becoming increasingly aware of the opportunities that are available through recreation on the Steens Mt. We support the continued provisions for recreation of all types. Being a service center for this area, anyone who visits the Steens Mountain has to spend money in our town. The more recreation opportunities there are, the more money is spent.

Recreating on the Steens Mountain is very important to the people who live in Harney County. There is a history of deer hunting, snowmobiling, hiking, etc. Any limitation of the historical use threatens to impact the social fabric of many residents.

When someone visits with people who have spent generations on the mountain, there is an overwhelming sense of value the mountain holds in the lives of these people. I am afraid that by limiting use we risk impacting people beyond what can be seen on the ground.

Tourism

The Steens Mountain is a natural wonder that should be enjoyed by everyone who wants to enjoy it. The City of Burns benefits by the tourist dollar and by enticing people from all over the world to visit our county. There is a rich heritage associated with the Steens Mountain and Harney County. This heritage is a product of multiple use of these public lands and must be preserved for our future generations.

Agriculture

This seems to be the one aspect of multiple use of the Steens Mountain that is under the most severe scrutiny. It is also the most baffling. The very fact that this mountain is in such a pristine state, is because of the historical use of these lands. The environmental community chooses to attack the very livelihood of the people who have nurtured the mountain for up to five generations, the people most responsible for preserving the beauty that we all can enjoy today.

We should be grateful for the work they do and have done, not flutter down from the sky, kick them off of the land, thinking that we are going to do a better job than what has historically been done.

The City of Burns receives untold economic and social benefits from those who use our public lands to feed the world. We support increased use of our natural resources and would oppose any elimination of use.

Conservation

No one cares more for the lands of this county than the people who live here. The people here are the real conservationists of the world, because they understand that in order for them to continue to enjoy the prosperity of the land, it is necessary to respect and take care of the land. The people who use the natural resources that we were given are always trying to find ways to better care for the land, and are willing to learn new methods of stewardship.

The City of Burns supports the conservation of our public lands on the Steens Mountain. We realize that without preservation of this resource, we lose our social and economic

benefit. We believe that the conservation of these lands can be done in coordination with multiple use.

We oppose the policy of those who would exclude agriculture, recreation, or any form of public use absent clear evidence that such use would unalteringly destroy the resource.

The big bad wolf came knocking at the door. The little pigs inside looked around in fear and saw the cows all shaking in the corner. The pigs got together and kicked a bunch of them outside, thinking that would satisfy the wolf's hunger. They said, "There are so many of the cows, that it won't make any difference." Pretty soon the wolf came a knocking again. The little pigs looked at each other with fear in their eyes and spotted the "snowmobile", because he was so small it was easy to kick him out so they did.

Soon, the wolf came back, again and again, each time walking away with a choice morsel. "Mineral rights", "Access", all were fed to the wolf. Time and again the pigs, dwindling in number, said to themselves, "surely this will satisfy the wolfs appetite and he will go away for good". But he kept coming back.

Those of us who use the Steens Mountain, live in Harney County, whose heritage is tied to these public lands, cannot afford to continue to offer up any more concessions to the wolf. To do so, only brings the wolf closer to his ultimate mission which is to eat every pig in the house.

Robb Corbett
City Manager

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Steens Mountain Advisory Committee
Bureau of Land Management
Burns District Office, BLM

Hello,

My name is Richard (Dick) Day. I am representing Community Response Team of Harney Co. Thank you for giving me this opportunity to make comments regarding social and economic values as they pertain to the "Resource Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement" for the Andrews Management Unit/Steens Mountain Cooperative Management and Protection Area.

I would like to focus on some words contained in the above RMP and the "Steens Mountain Cooperative Management and Protection Act of 2000":

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|-----------------|---------------|
| * Adaptive | * Foster |
| * Advise | * Innovative |
| * Collaboration | * Maintain |
| * Communication | * Reasonable |
| * Conflict | * Regulation |
| * Consultation | * Sustainable |
| * Cooperative | * Values |

These words, standing alone, have no meaning or context till they are put them into a sentence. The sentences build to paragraphs and pretty soon you've got a fully developed document. The document is filled with goals, objectives, action items and evaluation methods. Behind the words are interpretations, points of view, protected turf, political agendas, and vested interests. And in all of this the SMAC has to negotiate, communicate, collaborate, cooperate and advise to create a workable plan. But the plan is only part of the picture. After the plan is written, rewritten, dissected, digested and finally approved, then it must be implemented. It is in the process of implementation that the real effects to the social and economic values occur.

Doesn't that just scare the liver out of you? Isn't that what everyone sitting around this table is concerned about. If the plan can just cover all the bases that it needs to and if it is fairly implemented, everybody wins. You can all go home – GOOD JOB!! And as one of my friends commented – DREAM ON!!

So the question is, "How can public land management contribute to the economic stability of rural communities in the planning area?" (see pg 1-9 line 26- Preliminary Draft)

I have done many searches on the Internet over the last couple of weeks, trying to find information regarding land use planning and its effect on social and economic values. I'm ready to wave the flag and give up. I found a lot of references to articles referring to urban planning, but not much referencing rural planning. There are individual studies done by various universities and government entities concerning varied aspects of issues included in this RMP. However, the objectives and/or the assumptions made in the studies do not seem to provide much relevance to our concerns here.

The plan already contains economic figures as collected from the census, employment report, visitor surveys, etc. But that's not the complete picture is it. Those figures represent the "head" of social and economic facts, but not the "heart" of social and economic VALUES!!!! Values – this plan is just full of value statements – wilderness experience, unobstructed views, isolation, solitude, pristine watersheds, and so forth. How can you quantify these concepts? How do you measure the economic value of the East Rim Overlook view? How do you measure the social value of a weekend camping trip to Fish Lake? I submit that you cannot measure this. That is one reason there is so little information available to guide your decisions. Are we not left with – "well I know what isolation is when I see it". And isn't this the very point where disagreements can and do occur.

I have to go back to the "Steens Mountain Cooperative Management and Protection Act of 2000" to see what are the objectives of the act. Under Title I, Subtitle-A, sec.102 "Purpose and objectives of the Cooperative Management and Protection Area", there are 5 objectives listed. All of these objectives will have an affect on social and/or economic values depending on how the plan is prepared and implemented.

Let us consider Objective #2: "to promote grazing, recreation, historic, and other uses that are sustainable". To achieve sustainability, the plan must adapt and implement a management timeframe that will justify economic investment and support stability for both economic and social values. Economic investments cannot be justified, if the management of the plan is changed before the full value of the investment can be realized. On the other side of this same coin, economic values are severely eroded by delays in plan implementation. Implementation is a big economic hole for private industry. Government may be able to afford delays, but private entities cannot. Somehow a well-defined, openly negotiated timeline needs to be prepared so private economic interest can respond properly to plan changes and/or implementation.

Economic values will not be supported if the integrity and management emphasis of the plan is changed with each new Director or key employee. So much institutional knowledge is lost with rapid employee turnover. This is becoming a major problem for not only this office, but for other areas as well. As an example, I visited Zion National Park this past April. About 10 years ago, the Park Service implemented a plan to control flooding along the stretch of river flowing thru the bottom part of the park. Today they are redoing that plan because the cottonwoods are not reproducing. That tree needs periodic flooding to reproduce. The employees that originated this plan are long gone from Zion. Because the view was not long enough or the investigation not deep enough more funds must be appropriated and expended to remedy this situation. And this just keeps happening. So the project is delayed because funds are not appropriated. More trees are lost. The environment and view are changed and all of this occurs in a very short time

period. The environment gets whipped around to the detriment of all the values inherent to the plan. So be careful if you introduce fire or wish to change plant communities. Think deep and look at a really large picture ecologically speaking before acting. Get outside the box and investigate scenarios that appear to be off the wall and inconceivable. I wonder if the current water issue with Klamath Lake would have occurred, had the Corp of Engineers studied water levels and climatic conditions over a 100-year time span? Might that problem been avoided if they had given more credence to Indian rights granted by treaty? Now some private entities are facing an untenable future because planning was insufficient or inadequate. These private entities relied on a public program that is now pulled out from underneath their feet. Economic and social values have been thrashed by these conditions. In addition to loss of economic land values and elimination of economic livelihood, a great deal of mistrust and outward enmity has been created as a result of this program failure.

I might also say that this community is very familiar with this phenomenon. It has produced much disturbance to our economic and social systems. This has resulted in polarization, distrust and lack of support from the community when new initiatives are proposed by certain government agencies. This does not build community. No one wants to end up with these results.

So what timeframes are we talking about?

See page 1-1, line #38 of proposed draft plan: *"A primary goal of this plan is to develop management practices that promote long-term sustainability of a healthy and productive landscape."* On page 2-1, line 45 – *"The underlying goal of the RMP/EIS is to provide efficient on-the-ground management of public lands and associated resources over a period of time, usually to 20 years"*. On page 2-3, Line 15- *"The following desired range of conditions (DRC) is a description of what the physical and biological condition or degree of function would be or would be moving toward at the end of the 20- to 50 year time frame"*.

I've had more than a little trouble sleeping this last week. The deadline is approaching - you opened your big mouth and said you wanted to talk – now what are you going to say. When I can't sleep I turn on my short wave radio and cruise the frequencies. The other night I was able to listen to a Navajo radio station out of Window Rock, Arizona. I came in on the tail end of a program about the Navajo people – their land, their customs, their values – there's that word again. They have been here for 9,000 years. They think in terms of 7-generations, their homeland was formed 180 million years ago. Hmmm, that's similar to the local Paiute culture. I don't know how you would implement a 7-generation plan, but I feel intuitively, this is about the right amount of time. Maybe you can achieve that thru collaboration, communication, consultation, and innovation. I would also recommend that you have a very concise list of all the goals this plan seeks to achieve. The first time a new employee arrives in the office plaster that list permanently to his/her eyeballs so he/she sees the world through that list.

Likewise, social and/or economic values will not be supported at present levels or augmented in the future if the implementation of plan management is so restrictive as to deprive access to the area by both private and public groups. Restrictive access to private property does have a direct effect on property value and therefore property taxes collected by Harney County. If the

emphasis of plan management is to buy out the inholders , this will also directly affect Harney County tax collection. That in turn reverts back to the rest of the community if county services are lost.

Most citizens of this county choose to live here because of the economic and social values that Harney County possesses. Many of the people who have economic interest in the planning area are 3rd or 4th generation of the original settlers – not a long time. Their way of earning a living from the land adds to the social and economic values of this county. They own large stretches of landscape that many urban folks come to see and use. Their way of life deepens and enriches the lives of those who live in this community, state and country. Every time my boy moved cattle across Hwy 395, people couldn't grab their camera's fast enough to take pictures. They were from all over the world. I am sure that scene will remain in their mind for a long time. Please implement the plan so our country folks can continue this way of life. One more thought – if diversified plant communities are valued by the plan, then a plan that supports diversified economic life styles is also important.

Objective #2 above lists a lot of uses it would like to maintain and sustain. I would urge the SMAC and staff to identify those issues which cause instability or uncertainty in the planning process or implementation phase and work very hard to solve those items, especially as it relates to multiple-use issues. I am firmly convinced that if there is a deep and thoughtful discussion of those issue now – realizing it may take a while- a better plan will emerge. The goal of this effort should be to promote better communication and confidence between multi-use interests. If that goal is achieved, I would predict less trouble 5 to 10 years down the line. If that turns out to be true, it would definitely enhance the economic and social values of this plan.

One last objective deserves comment and that is objective # 5: "to promote and foster cooperation, communication, and understanding and to reduce conflict between Steens Mountain users and interest". I have alluded to this above. Conflict does not promote healthy social or economic values. I think the best and most polite way of expressing the relationship between the urban and rural interest associated with this land planning area can best be described as toxic. As we all know, government ownership of land is much different than private ownership. It is subject to all sorts of influences and agendas that do not exist with private ownership. And yet land use planning on government land can and does affect use and values of private land. If this plan is deficient and if this committee does not fulfill the mandates given to you, there are a whole lot of outside interest ready to push their agendas. I can just see the headlines now – "Country folks just couldn't agree on anything. They punted on the tough issues. We told congress this would never works. Now we'll show them how to plan." This committee must make decisions on the tough issues. If you don't give this agency direction and advise, someone else will.

So to maintain or increase economic and social values:

- think big
- think deep
- think outside the box
- think over a long time span
- plan over a 7-generation time span

- Identify issues that cause instability or uncertainty in planning or implementation
- You can never ask enough questions
- Be mindful – plan and implementation delays cost money
- Promote communication and trust between multi-use interest
- If change must occur communicate early, often and openly
- Don't whip the environment around
- Be very thoughtful when implementing restriction levels
- Don't lose institutional memory

Thank you for this opportunity. Your task is an awesome one. I wish you energy, insight and fortitude to create a workable plan.

Richard A Day